

## Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 RSC-01 /019 W

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R 021115Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0510

UNCLAS KABUL 7516

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, AF

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT: FEASABILITY STUDIES; ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS  
INC (ECI)

REF: (A) STATE 262170, (B) STATE 227708, (C) KABUL 6069

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES VISIT OF ECI REPRESENTATIVE SUGAR. TO BEST OF  
OUR KNOWLEDGE, KHURRAM AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS WILL BE IN  
KABUL DURING SECOND WEEK OF DECEMBER, AND IT APPEARS TO BE A  
GOOD TIME FOR A VISIT.

2. EMBASSY REGRETS DELAY IN RESPONDING TO REFTTEL B. COMPLETE  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS STILL NOT AVAILABLE. FOLLOWING ARE  
PRELIMINARY ANSWERS KEYED TO ECI PARAGRAPHS. MORE DETAILED AND  
BETTER VERIFIED  
RESPONSE WILL FOLLOW.

(A) SOME HYDROLOGICAL DATA IS AVAILABLE FOR SOME AREAS.  
COMPLETENESS AND ACCESSIBILITY OF DATA REMAINS TO BE DETERMINED.

(B) AFGHANISTAN IS ONE OF BEST MAPPED COUNTRIES OF LDCS.  
AVAILABILITY OF EXISTING MAPS SOMETIMES A PROBLEM.

(C) LAND USE SERVEY IS BEING UNDERTAKEN, BUT DATA BY NO MEANS  
COMPLETE OR FULLY RELIABLE.

(D) AFGHANISTAN HAS SEVERE SHORTAGE OF WELL TRAINED TECHNICAL  
PERSONNEL. SOME ENGINEERS MAY BE AVAILABLE, BUT THIS SHORTAGE A  
PRIMARY REASON FOR NEED OF OUTSIDE CONSULTANTS. MORE THAN  
ADVISORY SERVICES WILL PROBABLY BE REQUIRED.

(E) ONE CURRENT CONSULTANCY CONTRACT IS BEING PERFORMED  
PRIMARILY IN CANADA AT CONSULTANT'S HOME OFFICE. THIS CLIENT  
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PREFERENCE MAY VARY FROM MINISTRY TO MINISTRY.

(F) MUST BE DETERMINED THROUGH CONSULTATION WITH CLIENT.

(G) SEE (D) ABOVE.

(H) THIS HAS BEEN PERMITTED IN PAST, BUT WOULD REQUIRE HIGH LEVEL GOA APPROVAL. THERE ARE NO SUCH COMPANIES CURRENTLY IN AFGHANISTAN.

(I) AN IBM 360 IS OPERATING IN KABUL. PROGRAM STORAGE AVAILABILITY MUST BE DETERMINED.

(J) EQUIPMENT AND TRAINED PERSONNEL EXIST, BUT THEIR AVAILABILITY IS UNCERTAIN.

(K) YES, FOR MOST NEEDS.

(L) PLENTY OF SPACE AVAILABLE, BUT OFTEN NOT WELL SUITED FOR OFFICE USE, REQUIRING EXTENSIVE PREPARATION.

(M) HOUSING IS PLENTIFUL

(N) APPLICABILITY OF TAX AND CUSTOMS LAWS TO EXPATRIATES WORKING FOR GOA CAN BE SUBJECT TO CONTRACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS.

(O) YES, TWO ENGLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOLS AND SEVERAL OTHER (FRENCH, GERMAN, ITALIAN) SCHOOLS MEET HIGH STANDARDS FOR ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, WHILE ONE SCHOOL IS U.S. CERTIFIED FOR HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL.

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